



SPARK GAP

Vol. 39, Issue 4, April 2022 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

ON OUR MARC:

After about a year and a half of the Johnson County REMC being closed to the public, it has re-opened. Starting with this month's April meeting our monthly meetings will be held at the Johnson County REMC building, 750 International Dr. In Franklin. If the South lot is full, park in the employee lot around the building, NOT on the grass, driveway, or in a neighboring business lot.

See you Saturday, April 16 at 8 am

***Tim
WC9G***





April Birthdays

KD9OQC --- Richard Szepski

KI6QOG --- Jacki Frederick

FCC APPLICATION FEE

If you haven't already heard, the FCC announced that the long talked about application fees will be active on Tuesday April 19. The document from the FCC can be found at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-307A1.pdf>

Basically, after April 19, any new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, or vanity call sign application will be subject to the \$35 fee. The fee will be per application. Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, will be exempt from fees.

The ARRL release on the Application fee update can be found at <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>

Chris D. Frederick – KQ9Y

MARC UHF REEATER GETS CONTROLLER UPGRADES

Thanks to the efforts of Tim, WC9G, Dennis N9IKL and Chris KQ9Y the Yaesu UHF repeater has a new voice and controller on the air. The changes were made following an EmComm group meeting at WRTFD Station 51 the evening of April 7th. Following that training session Tim presented the new controller with expanded command choices to Repeater Trustee Chris-KQ9Y.



This journey to digital radio began during the September 2021 club picnic when the club agreed to purchase the Arcom RC210 controller from Chris-KQ9Y. In January 2022 Dennis offered to program the controller with new firmware. He purchased the special programming cable and eventually passed it on to Tim who was more familiar with the workings of the controller matrix system.



Tim explained, "I updated the firmware on the controller to the recent release (7.6511), went through programming including settings, voice macros, and control macros including some for Skywarn, and **initially** used my personally owned Yaesu DR-1XFR to test programming and settings."

The controller is being tested only on the UHF repeater to work out any bugs. According to Tim, "Once we have all settings and programming the way

we like, we can reprogram the Kenwood as well. Nothing is connected to VHF so there will be no impact to the Sunday Net, nor Skywarn (since that is only activated currently on 2-meters)."

Once tested both repeaters may be linked during severe weather and for the weekly Sunday night net. Additional pre-recorded messages can be activated using DTMF codes on the repeater controller.

Listen to the 443.525 for the new voice ID's, club messages and to work Wires-X.

-photos and story Jack W8ISH

World Amateur Radio Day is April 18

World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) is April 18 and is celebrated worldwide by radio amateurs and their national associations, which are organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (today, [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](https://www.arrl.org)) co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president.

"On World Amateur Radio Day, all radio amateurs are invited to take to the airwaves to enjoy our global friendship with other amateurs, and to promote our skills and capabilities to the public," said Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, ARRL Director of Public Relations and Innovation. "Use the backdrop of World Amateur Radio Day to describe and demonstrate ham radio to family, friends, and co-workers." While WARD falls on a Monday this year, Inderbitzen encourages amateurs and radio clubs to extend the celebration to include the weekend, or even all week. "Some radio clubs will even seek a proclamation from their town or state government, designating the period to recognize the contributions of radio amateurs to our communities, and the overall importance of our Amateur Radio Service," he said.

ARRL reports that there are more than 775,000 hams in the US. ARRL also supports a nationwide network of 2,400 affiliated radio clubs. "Radio clubs provide opportunities for newcomers to discover radio and to become ham radio operators," said Inderbitzen. "Clubs develop the personal radio communications capability of their members, operating together or from their home stations, in portable settings, and from nearly anywhere." Inderbitzen also highlighted that among the primary purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is to enhance international goodwill. "Radio amateurs use radio signals, which reach beyond borders, to bring people together culturally while providing essential communication in service to their communities."

More information and resources for participating in and promoting World Amateur Radio Day, can be found at:

- ARRL www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day
- IARU www.iaru.org/on-the-air/world-amateur-radio-day

Use the ARRL [Special Event Stations](https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations) listing to find on-air events by entering "World Amateur Radio Day" in the keyword search. On social media, use the hashtags **#WorldAmateurRadioDay**, **#hamradio**

.....ARRL NEWS April 2022



ARE ARES AND RACES DEAD?

According to Ryan Rather, AB9VM, ARES and RACES are quickly becoming a thing of the past. It is being replaced by Auxcomm, an umbrella group for organization and personnel which provide various types of emergency communications support to emergency management, public safety and other government agencies.



Ryan is the Indiana Disaster Communications Coordinator for the Integrated Public Safety Commission, (IPSC). In his March 19th remarks to the MARC club he emphasized that Auxcomm is being developed to incorporate many Federal, State and local emergency groups.

As a ham radio operator your human skills are needed but not expressly as a communicator with a radio. During a disaster there are many auxiliary duties to be performed like answering phones, tracking logistics, noting personnel check-ins, etc. Ryan says trained communicators can be utilized in many support positions.

The primary goal of Auxcomm is communications Interoperability during a disaster. Being able to communicate with other agencies is key to a smooth working Command system.

Ryan showed us his newest communications equipment. IPSC has two Compact Rapid Deployable cell phone internet trailers. By linking with satellites, they can provide secure cell and internet service where systems are overloaded in a disaster or where cell service is non-existent. Their new units were pressed into service during the recent Walmart warehouse fire in Plainfield.

Ryan also touched on the Indiana SAFE-T system where police and fire across the state can communicate using their 800 Mhz assigned radios.



He also explained the FirstNet system. This system is designed to deploy, operate, maintain, and improve the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. It's a reliable, highly secure, interoperable and innovative public safety communications platform.

Cont'd *ARE ARES AND RACES DEAD?*

As amateur radio operators Ryan endorses the use of WinLink for sending messages and files via Amateur Radio using HF, VHF and UHF. The Mid-State ARC has over a dozen members who are now using WinLink to practice disaster communications when needed. If you would like to join the group contact Jack-W8ISH.



-Story and photos by Jack w8ish



Other planets confirm
contacts differently.

INDIANA HAMFESTS

April 16, 2022

Henry County Tailgate

8 am - 12 pm

W G Smith Building @ Memorial Park

2221 N Memorial Drive New Castle, IN

<http://w9ob.org>

May 7

North Central Indiana Hamfest

Miami Co Fairgrounds

1029 W 200 N

Peru IN

June 11

Bloomington ARC Tailgate

Southside Christian Church

500 E Empire Mill Rd Bloomington, IN

www.bloomingtonradio.org

July 30, 2022

East Central Indiana Hamfest

8 am - 3 pm

Randolph County Fairgrounds

1885 S US 27 Winchester, IN

August 6, 2022

Elkhart East Hamfest

8am – 2 pm

21565 Executive Parkway Elkhart, IN <https://elkharteasthamfest.com/>

August 13, 2022

Hendricks Co. Tailgate

Avon United Methodist Church

6550 E US 36 Avon, IN

August 13, 2022

Auburn Hamfest

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

9 am – 1 pm

1600 Wayne Street Auburn, IN

September 10, 2022

MARC Tailgate (Free)

8am to 12pm

1 Caisson Drive Franklin, IN <http://www.midstatehams.org>

October 8, 2022

Hoosier Hills Hamfest

8 am

Lawrence Co Fairgrounds

11265 US-50 Bedford, IN

www.w9qyq.org

October 15, 2022

TARS - Oktoberfest

7 am - 2 pm

Lynnville Community Center

416 W ST RD 68 Lynnville, IN



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the New Hope Church 5307 West Fairview Road, Greenwood, IN 46143.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 2nd week of the month.



Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.